

## Cut Helps an Estimated 47,299 Middle-Class Families in District 23

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Rodriguez applauded the passage of H.R. 3996, a tax cut package that offers more than \$50 billion in middle-class tax relief and saves 47,299 households in 23rd Congressional District of Texas from paying higher taxes under the Alternative Minimum Tax. H.R. 3996 passed early this afternoon by a vote of 216 to 198.

"Families in San Antonio, Del Rio, Alpine, and across the 23rd District have endured skyrocketing costs of college education, gas prices inching up daily, and the decline of value in their homes," said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez. "I was proud to vote for a plan that cuts taxes for middle class families and saves 1,270,514 Texas households, including 47,299 from Bexar to El Paso County, from paying the Alternative Minimum Tax."

The Alternative Minimum Tax was originally designed to ensure very wealthy individuals do not avoid paying income tax. With inflation, the tax now threatens to impact middle-class families and raise taxes on 23 million Americans in 2008, including 47,299 in District 23. The Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007 protects 23 million middle-class families from being hit by the Alternative Minimum Tax and includes a series of other provisions that provide tax relief to working families.

Area	Number of Households Paying AMT in 2005	Estimated Number of Households Paying AMT in 2008	% Households Paying AMT in 2008
TX-23	5,315	47,299	790%
Texas	132,872	1,270,514	856%
	1,137,642		

H.R. 3996 specifically:

- Provides 30 million homeowners nationwide with property tax relief
- Helps 12 million children by expanding the child tax credit
- Benefits 11 million families through the State and local sales tax deduction
- Helps 4.5 million families better afford college with the tuition deduction
- Saves 3.4 million teachers money with a deduction for classroom expenses
- Provides thousands of American troops in combat with tax relief under the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Congressman Rodriguez serves as a Member of the House Committee on Appropriations.

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